



Kentucky Department of Education **Visiting International Teacher Program**



Expectations and Agreements

Revised March 2017

The main objectives for the cooperative programs that will be developed under these Expectations and Agreements are the improvement of the quality and extent of the teaching of language and culture in Kentucky, and the English language and North American culture in the home country of the selected visiting international teachers.

Schools hosting visiting international teachers should demonstrate/produce evidence that selected teachers:

- Promote and strengthen relationships between the United States of America and their home country;
- Promote and strengthen relationships between Kentucky and their home country;
- Foster knowledge and appreciation of the culture shared by the two communities;
- Provide students they teach with a bilingual/dual language immersion and multicultural education that trains them for future personal, academic and professional success; and
- Provide professional growth opportunities to teachers of Kentucky and their home country.

According to regulations of the Exchange Visitor Program ([Federal Register-Department of State 22 CFR Part 62 Exchange Visitor Program](#)), selected teachers shall have the following qualifications:

- Minimum qualifications for teaching at the primary, including pre-kindergarten, or secondary levels in schools in his or her home country;
- Possess, at a minimum, a degree equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree in either education or the academic subject field in which he or she intends to teach in Kentucky;
- Possess, at a minimum, two years of working experience in education (elementary, middle or high school);
- Sufficient proficiency in English language to participate in the program;

In addition to those requirements, selected teachers shall:

- Satisfy the teaching eligibility standards of the U.S. state in which they will teach, established in the state of Kentucky by the Educational Professional Standards Board (EPSB), so that they can be granted a one year limited teacher certification (per Kentucky Administrative Regulations, [16 KAR 4:070. Foreign teachers serving under the teacher exchange program](#)).

Agreements between the Kentucky Department of Education and external organizations, schools/districts and teachers participating in the KDE Visiting International Program:

- The Kentucky Department of Education assists schools in need of World Languages teachers by offering information regarding participation in available visiting international teacher programs.
- If the Kentucky Department of Education acts as the sponsoring agent, it will:
 - Sponsor visiting international teachers on a J-1 cultural exchange visa, valid for up to* three years (*pending success in the schools/classrooms in which they are placed and the willingness of the local district to continue employment; sponsored teachers cannot be placed in KY immediately following work with another state in an exchange program without a 2 year break.

The Kentucky Department of Education may decline sponsorship of visiting international teachers for a J-1 visa at any time, given notice that the teacher fails to meet any necessary requirements, including but not limited to unsatisfactory performance of teaching duties or lack of continued employment).

- Provide a representative to interview prospective candidates, assist the Visiting International Teacher with sponsorship of J-1 cultural exchange visas, provide an introductory orientation course and act as liaison between the schools and the visiting international teachers.
- If the Kentucky Department of Education acts as the sponsoring agent but in collaboration with an external organization, the external organization will:
 - Provide the Kentucky Department of Education with the visiting international teachers selected to be sponsored on a J-1 cultural exchange visa, valid for up to* as many years as the organization has established, but no more than three (*pending success in the schools/classrooms in which they are placed and the willingness of the local district to continue employment; sponsored teachers cannot be placed in KY immediately following work with another state in an exchange program without a 2 year break. The Kentucky Department of Education may decline sponsorship of visiting international teachers for a J-1 visa at any time, given notice that the teacher fails to meet any necessary requirements, including but not limited to unsatisfactory performance of teaching duties or lack of continued employment).
 - Provide a representative that will serve as liaison between the Kentucky Department of Education, the organization that he or she represents, and the visiting international teachers.
 - Provide an introductory orientation course for the visiting international teachers.
- If an external organization acts as the sponsoring agent, the external organization will:
 - Abide by the expectations and agreements described in this document and any other contract or agreement entered into for the purpose of providing visiting international teachers.
 - Provide the Kentucky Department of Education with a list of the selected visiting international teachers and their qualifications, prior to sponsoring them on a J-1 cultural exchange visa, valid for up to* as many years as the organization has established, but no more than three (*pending success in the schools/classrooms in which they are placed and the willingness of the local district to continue employment; sponsored teachers cannot be placed in KY immediately following work with another state in an exchange program without a 2 year break. The Kentucky Department of Education may decline sponsorship of visiting international teachers for a J-1 visa at any time, given notice that the teacher fails to meet any necessary requirements, including but not limited to unsatisfactory performance of teaching duties or lack of continued employment).
 - Provide a representative that will serve as liaison between the Kentucky Department of Education, the organization that he or she represents, and the visiting international teachers.
 - Provide an introductory orientation course for the visiting international teachers.
- The schools/districts employing a visiting international teacher provide:
 - The salary, benefits and insurance for the teacher (unless provided by the external organization participating in this program);
 - A representative at the district and the school level that will serve as liaison between the Kentucky Department of Education, the school/district, and the visiting international teachers;
 - A mentor for the visiting international teachers;
 - A host family until the visiting international teachers can find suitable housing (not to exceed 6 months).

- The schools/districts support the attendance of the visiting international teachers to regional and/or statewide job-related professional learning opportunities, especially the Kentucky World Language Association (KWLA) state conference, in an equitable manner as other teachers in the school/district.
- The visiting international teachers pay for all travel expenses as well as accommodation expenses (unless arranged by the external organization).
- The visiting international teachers are expected to fulfill the same requirements as the other teachers in the school/district, including: Instruction, assessment, professional learning and participation in school/community life. Visiting international teachers will be subjected to all laws, regulations, district and school policies, procedures and rules governing public education.
- The visiting international teachers, in collaboration with their school/district, must design and complete a cross-cultural activity component during each academic year of program participation.